

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01801 291502Z

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TAGS: UNICEF, SWEL

SUBJ: UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD - MAY 24, 1975

PART II OF II

3. ITEM 4 - FINANCIAL REPORT, THE COMMITTEE REVIEWED AND NOTED THE 1974 FINANCIAL REPORT, IN INTRODUCING THE REPORT THE NEW COMPTROLLER (BLACKBERG-SWEDEN) POINTED OUT THAT ITS FORMAT HAD BEEN CHANGED TO MAKE IT SHORTER AND CLEARER AND TO DE-MYSTIFY FIGURES. IT WAS ALSO MORE CLOSELY RELATED TO CHANGES IN THE ACCOUNTING SYSTEM WHICH INVOLVED A GREATER DEGREE OF COMPUTERIZATION. HE HOPED THAT THE FINANCIAL REPORT WOULD, WITH ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS TO BE MADE IN THE FUTURE WOULD NOT ONLY PROVIDE ESSENTIAL RETROSPECTIVE INFORMATION, BUT BE AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT TOOL IN FINANCIAL MONITORING AND PLANNING AND FORECASTING DYNAMIC ACTIVITIES. THE U.S., SWEDEN, AND THE PHILIPPINES WELCOMED THE NEW FORMAT OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT. IN RESPONSE TO U.S. QUESTION BLACKBERG SAID \$6 MILLION HAD BEEN EARNED BY UNICEF THROUGH SHORT TERM INVESTMENTS.

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PAGE 02 USUN N 01801 291502Z

4. ITEM 5 - BUDGET ESTIMATES. THE COMMITTEE REVIEWED

1975 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND PROGRAMME SUPPORT AND 1976 ESTIMATES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND PROGRAMME SUPPORT. THE FRG WHICH HAD ALREADY COMMENDED UNICEF ON LOW ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS REITERATED STATEMENT THUS FIRMLY OPPOSING USSR. DEL DID EXPRESS CONCERN OVER COST INCREASES. SUGGESTED THAT UNICEF NOT TAKE INFLATION AS A GIVEN AND NOTED THAT DOMESTICALLY FRG FOUGHT INFLATION BY RESTRICTING PUBLIC EXPENDITURES AND ALLOWING NO NEW POSTS. THIS HAD WORKED WELL FOR FRG AND HE SUGGESTED THAT UNICEF RESTRICT TRAVEL AND CREATION OF NEW POSTS. THE U.S. DEL ENDORSED BUDGET ESTIMATES AND SUPPORTED THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE FRG REGARDING INFLATION. HE ALSO SUPPORTED THE NEW UNITARY BUDGET FOR FIELD OFFICES WHICH HE FELT WOULD REINFORCE COST-CONSCIOUSNESS.

A) FRENCH (BALENCIE) ALONG WITH OTHER DELS COMPLAINED ABOUT RECEIVING DOCUMENTS TOO LATE FOR CAREFUL REVIEW. AGREED WITH U.S. AND FRG THAT MANY EXPENSES INCURRED BY UNICEF COULD BE REDUCED AS MEANS OF FIGHTING INFLATION. WHILE AGREEING THAT UNICEF SHOULD NOT RELOCATE ITS OFFICES IN NEW YORK, SHE COMPLAINED THAT BOARD MEMBERS HAD NOT BEEN NOTIFIED. SHE ALSO ASKED IF UNICEF CHARGED 14 PERCENT WHEN PERFORMING AS AN EXECUTING AGENCY FOR PROCUREMENT.

B) THE U.S. DEL SUGGESTED THAT IT UNICEF HAD TO PAY RENT IN THE FORMER ILO BUILDING IN GENEVA THE SECRETARIAT SHOULD INVESTIAGE THE ADVISABILITY OF MOVING THE OFFICE TO VIENNA WHERE THERE APPEARS TO BE SPECE AT REASONABLE COSTS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS THE SECRETARIAT NOTED THAT:

- THE CHAIRMEN OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE WERE INFORMED ABOUT THE DECISION NOT TO RELOCATE IN NEW YORK;

- A REPORT WILL BE MADE TO BHE BOARD AT THE 1976 SESSION ON THE GENEVA HEADQUARTERS;

- THE SCHEDULE OC COMMISSIONS REGARDING PROCURE-
MENT IS BEING REVIEWED IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT A FORMULA WHICH INVOLVES NEITHER PROFIT OR LOSS FOR UNICEF.

C) THE COMMITTEE REVIEWED 1975 AND 1976 BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR UNIPAC. THE ESTIMATES FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 USUN N 01801 291502Z

BOTH YEARS TOTALS \$2.4 MILLION.

5. ITEM 6 - GREETING CARD OPERATION. IN CONNECTION WITH THE GREETING CARD OPERATION (CGO) THE COMMITTEE REVIEWED AND NOTED:

1. THE OBSERVATIONS OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS AND THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS (ACABQ) ON THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 1972

SEASON, AND THE COMMENTS AND ACTION TAKEN BY THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN RESPONSE TO THESE OBSERVATIONS;

2. THE GCO FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE 1973 SEASON;

3. THE REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON PROGRESS
IN IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OVERVIEW
SURVEY OF THE GCO;

4. THE ACTION BEING TAKEN BY THE GCO WITH REGARD
TO SALES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO APPROVED THE GCO BUDGET ESTIMATES
FOR THE 1975 SEASON AND A PROVISION FOR ADVANCE COSTS
FOR THE 1976 SEASON. THE BUDGET TOTALS \$9.4 MILLION. GROSS
PROCEEDS OF SALES ARE ESTIMATED AT \$25.9 MILLION, AND
OPERATIONAL INCOME AT \$10 MILLION. FAVORABLE COMMENT WAS
MADE ON THE OPERATION AS A WHOLE. THE U.S. DEL QUESTIONED
THE DELAY IN HIRING AN EXPERIENCED MANAGER
TO HEAD THE GCO AS RECOMMENDED TWO YEARS AGO BY A
MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT FIRM. HE FELT THAT THIS WAS
THE ONLY WAY TO HAVE A BUSINESSLIKE OPERATION.
THE SECRETARIAT RESPONDED THAT A PERSON
TO HEAD THE OPERATION WAS BEING SOUGHT.
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